

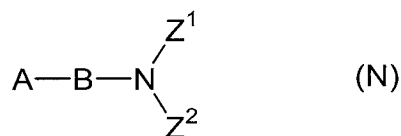
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A hair cosmetic composition comprising the following components (A) to (C):

(A): an amphipathic amide lipid,

(B): a cationic surfactant or a tertiary amine type compound represented by the following formula (N):

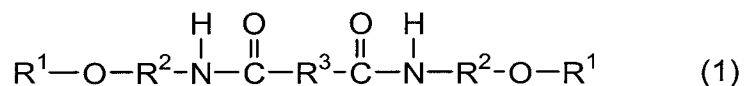


wherein, A represents a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated amide, (N-hydrocarbon)carbamoyl, acyloxy or hydrocarbonoxy group each having 12 to 24 carbon atoms in total, B represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated divalent C₁₋₂₂ hydrocarbon group, and Z¹ and Z² each independently represents a C₁₋₄ alkyl group; or a salt of the compound, and

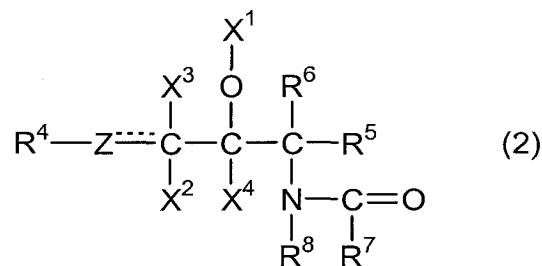
(C): a silicone; wherein the composition has a pH of from 1 to 4.5 at 25°C when diluted with water to 20 times the weight of the composition,

wherein the surfactant component of said composition consists of said cationic surfactant and optionally, at least one of an amphoteric surfactant and a nonionic surfactant.

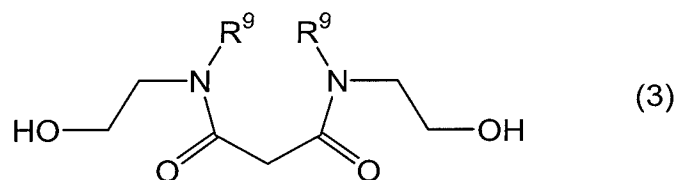
Claim 2 (Original): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein Component (A) is an amphipathic amide lipid selected from compounds selected from the group consisting of and represented by the following formulas (1) to (4), including mixtures thereof:



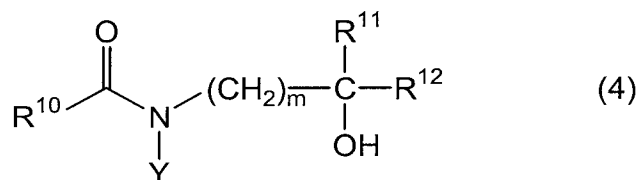
wherein, R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{1-12} hydrocarbon group which may be substituted with hydroxy and/or alkoxy group(s), R^2 represents a linear or branched divalent C_{1-5} hydrocarbon group, and R^3 represents a linear or branched divalent C_{1-22} hydrocarbon group,



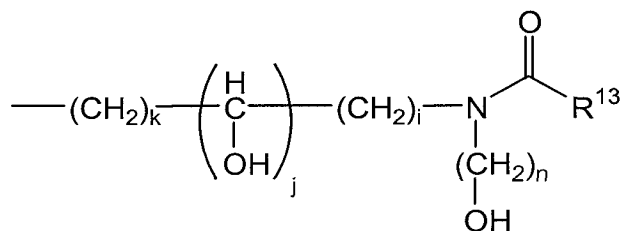
wherein, R^4 represents a linear, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated C_{4-30} hydrocarbon group which may be substituted with a hydroxy, oxo or amino group(s), Z represents a methylene group, a methine group or an oxygen atom, a broken line represents the presence or absence of a π bond, X^1 represents a hydrogen atom, acetyl group or glyceryl group, or, together with the adjacent oxygen atom, forms an oxo group, X^2 , X^3 and X^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or an acetoxy group (with the proviso that when Z represents a methine group, one of X^2 and X^3 represents a hydrogen atom and the other does not exist, and when $-\text{O}-\text{X}^1$ represents an oxo group, X^4 does not exist), R^5 and R^6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or a hydroxymethyl group, R^7 represents a linear, branched or cyclic, saturated C_{5-35} hydrocarbon group which may be substituted with hydroxy or amino group(s), or the saturated C_{5-35} hydrocarbon group in which a linear, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated C_{8-22} fatty acid which may be substituted with a hydroxy group is ester-bonded at the ω -position of the hydrocarbon group, and R^8 represents a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, hydroxyalkoxy groups, alkoxy groups and an acetoxy group and has 1 to 8 carbon atoms in total,



wherein, R^9 represents a C_{10-18} alkyl group which may be substituted with hydroxy group(s), and



wherein, R^{10} represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{9-31} alkyl group which may be substituted with hydroxy group(s), or a 2-dodecen-1-yl succinic acid residue, m stands for an integer of from 1 to 3, R^{11} and R^{12} each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, Y represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{10-32} alkyl group which may be substituted with hydroxy group(s), or a substituent represented by the following formula:



in which, k , i and n each stands for an integer of from 1 to 3, j stands for 0 or 1, and R^{13} represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{9-31} alkyl group which may be substituted with hydroxy group(s).

Claim 3 (Original): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein the silicone is selected from the group consisting of dimethylpolysiloxane, polyether-modified silicones, amino-modified silicones, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Original): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 2 wherein the silicone is selected from the group consisting of dimethylpolysiloxane, polyether-modified silicones, amino-modified silicones, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Original): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, comprising from 0.001 to 20 wt.% of Component (A).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein component (B) is the cationic surfactant which is selected from the group consisting of lauryl trimethylammonium chloride, cetyl trimethylammonium chloride, cetyl trimethylammonium bromide, stearyl trimethylammonium chloride, stearyl trimethylammonium bromide, lauryl trimethylammonium bromide, dialkyl dimethylammonium chlorides, dicetyl dimethylammonium chloride, distearyl dimethylammonium chloride, dicocoyl dimethylammonium chloride, myristyl dimethylbenzylammonium chloride, stearyl dimethylbenzylammonium chloride, lanolin fatty acid aminopropylethyldimethylammonium ethylsulfate, lanolin fatty acid aminoethyltriethylammonium ethylsulfate, lanolin fatty acid ~~aminoethyldiethylmethylammonium~~ aminoethyldiethylmethylammonium ethylsulfate, lanolin fatty acid aminoethyltrimethylammonium ethylsulfate, lanolin fatty acid aminopropyltriethylammonium ethylsulfate, lanolin fatty acid aminoethyltrimethylammonium methylsulfate, lanolin fatty acid aminopropylethyldimethylammonium methylsulfate, isoalkanoic acid (C14 to C20) aminopropylethyldimethylammonium ethylsulfates, isoalkanoic acid (C18 to C22) aminopropylethyldimethylammonium ethylsulfates, isostearic acid aminopropylethyldimethylammonium ethylsulfate, isononanoic acid

aminopropylethyldimethylammonium ethylsulfate, alkyltrimethylammonium saccharines, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn - Currently Amended): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein component (B) is the tertiary amine type compound which is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethyloctadecyloxypropylamine, stearamidopropyldimethylamine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Original): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1 further comprising a surfactant selected from the group consisting of an amphoteric surfactant, nonionic surfactant, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (Original): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein the silicone has an average particle size of from 0.001 to 200 μ m.

Claim 10 (Original): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, comprising from 0.001 to 20 wt.% of Component (A), from 0.1 to 20 wt.% of Component (B) and from 0.005 to 10 wt.% of Component (C).

Claim 11 (New): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, comprising from 0.2 to 3 wt.% of Component (A), from 1 to 4 wt.% of Component (B) and from 1 to 3 wt.% of Component (C).

Claim 12 (New): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein said pH is from 2 to 4.

Claim 13 (New): The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein said pH is from 3 to 3.8.